

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-37 are pending in this application. Claims 11-25 and 29-37 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-2, 4-10 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Block et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,737,728) in view of Jeon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,753,221). In response thereto, applicants submit herewith a verified English language translation of Japanese application No. 2002-330578 (hereinafter "JP '578") to which applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119. The U.S. filing date of Jeon et al. is predated by the filing date of JP '578. Applicants submit that all the claimed subject matter of issue in the current application is likewise disclosed in the JP '578 application. Wherefore, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §119 and 37 C.F.R. §1.55, applicants respectfully submit that Jeon et al. is no longer a prior art reference within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102(e). In light thereof, applicants further respectfully request that the rejection be removed as moot.


In view of the above remarks and accompanying verified English translation, Applicants submit that that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/706,288
Attorney Docket No. 032104

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP


Michael J. Caridi
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,171
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

Enclosures: English Translation JP' App. No. 2002-330578
Translator's Declaration